States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have deployed Tourist Police in one form or the other.

Moksh tourism

699. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Varanasi proposed to offer moksh tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this has gained popularity in the country and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

Promotion of Tourism in Goa

700. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Goa has proposed to give permission to start floating casinos in the State to boost tourism;

(b) whether Central Government have issued any guidelines to the State Government in the matter of establishing casinos;

(c) whether Government have any policy in regard to setting up of golf clubs, casinos, water sports etc. as a part of tourism activity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The casinos on board in vessels offshore are allowed under the Goa Public Gambling Act by Government of Goa.

(b) Ministry of Tourism has not issued any guidelines to the State Government in the matter of establishing casinos.

(c) and (d)Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to States for tourism infrastructure development under its scheme of 'Product/ Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits'. The projects like Golf course etc. are also encouraged through Public Private Partnership